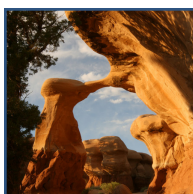
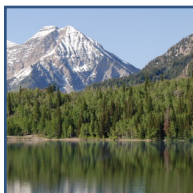
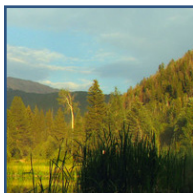


The Human Touch

Utah Department of
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And More!

Director's Message

We have had a busy month in Human Services as our fiscal year draws to a close and we are implementing our new building blocks. We hosted a workshop in St. George last week for families who are dealing with meth addiction. This was similar to a workshop we did in Salt Lake last fall, and we are planning more of them around the state later this year. In St. George we had a great turnout from many of our agencies, including Juvenile Justice Services, Child and Family Services, and mental health/substance abuse professionals.

Thanks to all of you who pulled together to put on a valuable presentation. Liz Sollis from my office did all the heavy lifting to make it happen, but she was assisted by Shirley Owen and Jana Lee Gregory from DCFS in St. George. With their help we were able to have one whole day of the workshop focus on our community partners such as the schools and law enforcement. The other day of the workshop was spent with family members from southwestern Utah. All attendees heard from Dr. Glen Hanson on how meth effects the brain, from Craig Roberts on how meth addiction effects children, and they heard real-life stories of hope from people in recovery.

We also had an inspiring presentation from a woman who has been a caregiver for her relatives' children



Lisa-Michele Church
Executive Director

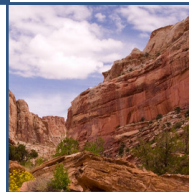
because their mother was addicted to meth. All in all it gave the attendees a good deal of useful information to deal with this important topic. Paul Thorpe, Teresa Willie and staff from Southwest Behavioral Health Center also did a wonderful job on the workshop.

DHS is at the forefront of trying to attack this meth problem on many fronts. If you see a need for these types of resources in your workplace, let Liz know,

esollis@utah.gov or 801-538-4275. I know that meth is effecting everyone from children and families to caregivers. The Governor has given us great support and made this a priority, so let's do what we can.

Enjoy your summer and keep up the good work!





Meth and Families: All-Day Workshop

Liz Sollis, Executive Director's Office

ST. GEORGE – Stories of hope from moms in recovery and relatives impacted by meth use were the highlight at a two-day Meth and Families Workshop here June 8 and 9.

"When my sister-in-law got arrested we went from a family of 7 to a family of 10," said Sara B., who cares for her sister-in-law's three children. "We couldn't have done it without the help of our caseworkers."

Sara finally has hope for her sister-in-law and her boyfriend who are in treatment and recovering.

Robin K., mom in recovery, said she wouldn't have made it without her dad who never gave up on her. Her dad, David K., agreed but said he wished that parenting classes and training had been available when his kids were growing up.

More than 150 professionals and family members gathered at Snow Canyon Middle School. Utah Department of Human Services, its Division of Child and Family Services and Southwest Behavioral Health Center sponsored the workshop.



Meth and Families Workshop

Attendees learned about the effects meth use has on the user's brain and behavior and about behaviors drug-endangered children often exhibit.

Additional workshops are planned for other areas of Utah. The next workshop is Saturday, August 25, at Utah State Hospital in Provo. For more information, visit the Human Services training website, www.hstraining.utah.gov

Training Tidbits

Are you ready to Spring forward with new information and skills? Below are just a few of the upcoming training opportunities supported by the department:

School on Alcoholism and Other Drug Dependencies

June 24-29, 2007

University of Utah

Salt Lake City, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Susan Langston, 801-538-4343,

slangston@utah.gov. Note: Registration fees apply; partial scholarships are available.

Utah's 4th Drug Endangered Children Conference

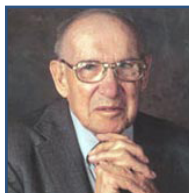
August 8-9, 2007

Westminster College

Salt Lake City, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Pediatric Education Services, Primary Children's Medical Center, 801-662-3501 or 800-910-7262.

Note: Registration fees apply.



Knowledge has to be improved, challenged, and increased constantly, or it vanishes.

- Peter F. Drucker

Meth and Families: All-Day Workshop for Families

August 25, 2007

Utah State Hospital

Provo, Utah

For additional/registration information visit the DHS Conferences/Advanced Training Calendar, www.hstraining.utah.gov

Fall Conference on Substance Abuse

September 26-28, 2007

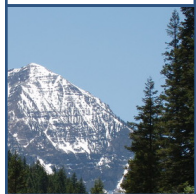
Dixie Convention Center

St. George, Utah

For additional/registration information contact Lynette Willie, 801-538-4410, lwillei@utah.gov

Note: Registration fees apply.

Are you aware of a training or conference that we don't have listed? If so, please notify Elizabeth Sollis, esollis@utah.gov 801-538-4275. You may also submit events online on the training calendars, www.hstraining.utah.gov.



Foster Care: Inside and "Out"

Douglas Spencer & Liz Sollis, Child & Family Services & Executive Director's Office

Amy Relf is a daughter, sister, former foster care recipient, college graduate and state employee, in a position designed to help other foster kids succeed.

Amy was born in Phoenix, Arizona on March 26, 1985. She has three 3 siblings: Katie, Kevin and Levi.

Amy's life changed dramatically when she and her younger brother entered foster care on Oct. 26, 2001. Once in the foster care system Amy elected to make the best of it. She successfully accessed Transition to Independent Living resources and her smooth transitions into independence and adulthood continue to be a valuable example to other foster children.

Amy's determination to succeed and help others has resulted in many positive outcomes. She was the first to graduate from the Turning Point Family Care program, attended the Daniel Memorial Transition to Independent Living conference in Kansas City, was a mentor for the Big Brother Big Sister organization, was President of the Winfield Kids Club in Beaver and completed a Winfield Kids internship with Utah Department of Workforce Services.

After graduating from high school Amy attended and graduated from Dixie State College with a presidential scholarship. She earned the Siegfried Cardston Scholarship, which is designated

for foster children, at the University of Utah and is the first known foster child in Utah, to graduate from the U.

Amy now works for Child and Family Services as the Youth Liaison in the Transition to Adult Living program.

"I wanted to do something that would make a difference in people's lives," Amy said. "I think the work that is done by Child and Family Services is extremely important. I really wanted to work with youth and have a chance to improve the lives of children who are living in homes that are not safe. Also, after being in foster care, I realized that although it is a good thing overall, there are a lot of improvements that could be made and that is something I want to help continue."



Amy Relf - U of U Graduate

Adult Protective Services (APS) Annual Conference Park City, Utah May 23-25, 2007

Aging & Adult Services, Long-Term Care Ombudsmen, Office of Public Guardian and Executive Director's Office staff attended the APS Annual Conference in Park City. Several employees and community partners were recognized for their service with the vulnerable adult population.



Karen Nelson – Wells Fargo Bank, Detective Jeff Bell – Weber County Sheriff's Office, David Fast – APS, Amanda Lambert – Valley Mental Health, Bobbi Schutz, Norma Perkins and Susan Street – APS

Suicide: A Preventable Public Health Problem

Lynette Willie, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Cherie Burton knows the suffering and grief of losing a loved one to suicide. Her 34-year-old sister checked into a hotel room and committed suicide by overdose in 2005.

"In her mind, it was an act of love," Burton said. In a note left behind, her sister expressed how she could give love as a guardian angel and she was relieving everyone of the burden of having her around.

Utah's Suicide Prevention Plan was announced during a May 17 news conference by First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman, Attorney General Mark Shurtleff and representatives of the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Cherie Burton said she was grateful for Utah's new plan during her speech.

Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health contracted with the National Alliance on Mental Illness - Utah (NAMI-UT) in 2006 to develop a comprehensive statewide suicide prevention plan that would "save lives in Utah," represent all ages and reflect Utah's cultural diversity.

NAMI-UT assembled community members and experts from various fields, advocacy groups, ethic and culturally diverse groups to participate on the Suicide Prevention Council. The Council's purpose was to develop a plan, focused on suicide prevention efforts in Utah, which would become a "blueprint" for policy makers, legislators and concerned citizens.

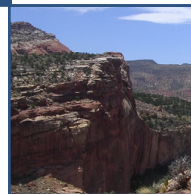
Cherie Burton is a community member who chose to make a difference by joining the council. For the past year she and others attended monthly meetings to discuss the extent of suicide and recommend preventive efforts. The labor of their work resulted in the development of 10 specific goals to decrease the number of suicides in Utah.

Utah Suicide Prevention Plan Goals:

- Promote awareness that suicide is a preventable public health problem
- Develop broad-based support for suicide prevention
- Develop and implement strategies to reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention services
- Develop and implement suicide prevention programs
- Promote efforts to reduce lethal means and methods of self-harm
- Implement training for reporting on suicide, recognizing at-risk behavior and delivering effective treatment
- Develop and promote effective clinical and professional practices
- Improve access to and community linkages with mental health and substance abuse services
- Promote awareness and broad-based support for suicide prevention activities among Utah's minority populations and increase the number of minority communities addressing suicide
- Promote and support research on suicide and suicide prevention

- Utah is 8th highest in the nation for suicide deaths in 2003 and 2004

- An average of 315 Utah residents die each year from suicide



The Human Touch

Director of Office of Fiscal Operations Announced



Jennifer Evans
Director of Office of Fiscal Operations

On May 19, 2007, Jennifer Evans began her duties as the Director of Office of Fiscal Operations. "I worked in the private sector and for another state agency," says Jennifer, "I was ready to work at an agency that makes a positive difference in the lives of those it serves." Jennifer is a CPA with a BA in Accounting and a MBA from Westminster College. In addition to serving as Budget Director for the Department for the last two cycles, Jennifer's state government experience includes Bureau of Internal Review and Audit and Utah State Tax Commission. She also worked in the private sector in accounting, auditing and banking.

Transitions: A Quest for Success

Marsha Honore-Jones, Utah Developmental Disabilities Council

The day after graduating from high school in Blanding, Mitchell Asbury got dressed as usual and then asked his mom: "Mom, where do I go to work?" Sandra and Wayne Asbury weren't prepared for his question.

When asked why he felt he needed to work, Mitchell replied, "Well, you go to work. Dad goes to work. Billina and Jay (siblings) go to work. Why can't I go to work?"

Mitchell is developmentally disabled and fully expected to work upon graduation from high school.

His parents helped create the Transitions program, owned and run by individuals with disabilities, to help Mitchell and other people with disabilities find jobs. Mitchell now runs an antique store.

Transitions' objectives include:

- Increase mobility within the community
- Improve social and communication skills
- Develop friendships with other people of similar age and interests
- Develop independent living skills
- Develop self-advocacy skills

Transitions is an "umbrella" organization under which five entrepreneurial businesses were started. Mitchell's store came first.

Participants then started secondhand clothing and bookstores and a scrapbook supply shop. Transitions owns the building where the stores are located. The organization recently purchased land to develop a strip mall. Community residents donated antique farm equipment and old buildings that will be incorporated into what they hope will become a tourist attraction rather than a regular strip mall.



Transitions Team

Transitions recently received an \$8,000 grant for their food bank and they plan to expand services to Moab, Monument Valley and Montezuma Creek by July 1.

Families of children with developmental disabilities face many challenges. Decisions that happen instinctively for most parents often become anxiety-filled moments for parents of children with disabilities. Guardianship, medical decisions and where they go to school or live are issues on the short list of concerns. The biggest concern is usually, "What will happen when we are not around?"

Sandra and Wayne Asbury are available to guide parents through those concerns and help them maintain and enhance motivation, imagination, networking skills and resources.

The Asbury's talked about their innovative, non-profit, community-based program for people with developmental disabilities during a recent Utah Developmental Disabilities Council meeting.

Individuals with questions may call the Asbury's at (435) 678-3741. Or drop by Transitions, 29 E. Center Street in Blanding.



**Archway Youth Services
March of Dimes Fundraiser
May 4, 2007 - Ogden**

Postcards from Adult Protective Services

"Wish you were here!"

This month's questions:

What is the best part of your job? Where is the best place to eat in your city? Where is your favorite place to vacation?



The Human Touch

June Edition

Thanks to Adult Protective Services! Want your region/office to be July's Postcards?

Have a question to ask? Write to Donna Russell, DLRussell@utah.gov



The Human Touch

"Wish you were here!" (continued)

From: Sabine Jolley

Senior Assistant Caseworker, Richfield

Best Part of Job:

Knowing the difference I can make – not just for APS staff or other agencies, but for our clients. Doing the "behind-the-scenes" work that makes the foundation strong for our workers to do the best job they can for our clients.

Best Place to Eat in Richfield:

Little Wonder Café – they have scones to die for!

Favorite Place to Vacation:

With my family in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

To:

All the great folks in DHS!

Try Human Services Supervisor Training - It's Fun!

Alan Ormsby & Nels Holmgren, Aging & Adult Services Director & Assistant Director

We attended Human Services Supervisor Training sessions over the past few months. They are very helpful, and I recommend that all supervisors and managers consider attending for the following reasons:

- Exposure to Human Services "Culture." We've learned that state government does things just a little bit differently than the private sector. Our Human Services culture is an important part of our mission and our goals, and I cannot think of a better way to understand it than by taking supervisor training
- It was also educational to get a better feel and perspective about other human services divisions. It allowed us to see more clearly how the pieces of Human Services fit together.
- Meeting Terrific Supervisors and Managers. Human Services' supervisors and managers are smart, committed, creative folks. It was a real pleasure to participate in group activities and learn from one another. We discussed real work solutions to common problems and employee concerns. The group interaction was energizing and fun. The training is designed to provide a great deal of discussion, and participants learn as much from each other as they do from the instructor.

- Monkeys! That's right, monkeys. Trainers really go out of their way to make training fun and memorable. One of the best training moments is a great video on delegation and follow-up. It features real, live monkeys doing the tasks we have to delegate...getting the monkey off our back, so to speak. It is a hilarious video and it alone is worth the price of admission.

For more information on Supervisor Training, visit the department training website,

www.hstraining.utah.gov



Alan Ormsby & Nels Holmgren



ANNOUNCING—NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Department of Human Services Executive Director's Awards 2007

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Promotes the value and critical role of front-line supervisors across the department.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD

The highest award bestowed by DHS. Nominations will describe exceptional service on the job, community service and character.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes a DHS employee whose contributions, efforts, and dedication demonstrates a career of integrity and excellence that promotes the Department's mission and values. DHS employees who have at least 20 years of service as of December 31, 2007 are eligible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Nominations accepted July 2 until July 31, at 5:00 p.m.
- Awards will be presented at the Annual Executive Director's Awards Luncheon, September 17, 2007.
- For information contact Donna Russell, Program Manager, dlrussell@utah.gov or 801/538-4608
- Full nomination criteria at http://www.hsemployees.utah.gov/pdf/announcement_nominations_2007.pdf

Nominations
open July 2-31

The Limelight

Link To More Recognition Ideas:

<http://www.hsemployees.utah.gov/limelight/>

It's Graduation Season. Do you have a team member graduating?

- Combining a career and school is a huge task – yet many Department of Human Services employees do just that!
- Graduation is a great time to celebrate their accomplishment. Perhaps a team picnic, give them a card or stop by their office and say, "Wow and congratulations!"

The Human Touch

Published by
Utah Dept. of
Human
Services

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utive Director

Edited by
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Russell & Liz
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Layout by
Rich Rayl &
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